

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims Status

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 12, and 17 are presented for consideration, with claims 1, 12, and 17 being independent. Claims 2, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 12, and 17 have been amended to clarify features of the present invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-14, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,002,878 to Gehman et al. (hereinafter “Gehman”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,347,202 to Shishizuka et al. (hereinafter “Shishizuka”).

Claims 3 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gehman in view of Shishizuka and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,566,084 to Cmar.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gehman in view of Shishizuka and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,795,829 to Alsop et al. (hereinafter Alsop).

Response to Art Rejections

Applicant submits that the cited art in any combination does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention, as previously recited in claims 1-3, 5-14, 17, and 18.

Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 12, and 17, as amended, amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

In one aspect of the present invention, amended independent claim 1 recites, an image processing apparatus having a plurality of operation modes and including, *inter alia*, specifying means, timing means, memory means, calculation means, preparation means, and output means. The specifying means specifies an operator of the apparatus. The timing means times an operation time for each operation mode, as well as an operation time for the operator. The memory means stores a power consumption per unit time for each operation mode. The calculation means calculates a power consumption amount for the specified operator based on the power consumption amount per unit time and the operation times. The preparation means prepares statistical information concerning the power consumption amount. The output means performs an output of the statistical information.

Gehman discloses a processor power consumption estimator including computer system 58, which can execute a process 54. Process 54 can be used to estimate the operation energy 76 for each operating instruction 38, and also to estimate the average power consumption of processor 22 for a given operating instruction 38 (col. 4, rows 44-52). Specifically, task 170 of process 54 obtains a number of clock cycles 126 for operating instruction 38. Gehman also discloses that a process 20 can be used to select a particular processor 22 from a library of processors 26 (col. 3, 26-32).

On the other hand, the timing means of present invention, as recited in amended independent claim 1, is provided not only for timing an operation time for each operation mode of an image processing apparatus, but also for timing an operation time for the operator of the apparatus. While timing an operation time for each operation mode may read on task 170 of process 54 of Gehman, nothing in Gehman contemplates timing an operation time for the operator. Thus, Gehman fails to teach or suggest the image processing apparatus recited in claim 1, and Applicant believes that the present invention recited in that claim is patentably distinguishable from Gehman.

The secondary citations to Shishizuka, Cmar, and Alsop fail to compensate for the deficiencies in Gehman. Shishizuka discloses a multi-mode image processing apparatus, which includes monitoring and other analysis of power consumption. Cmar discloses a process for identifying energy consumption patterns that includes gathering statistics on power consumption for various user departments. Alsop discloses a communications network connected to a central computer and multiple other terminals. However, none of Shishizuka, Cmar, or Alsop contemplates an image processing apparatus that includes timing means for timing an operation time for an operator of an image processing apparatus. Therefore, Applicant further believes that the present invention recited in independent claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from any combination of all of the cited art.

The other independent claims, i.e., claims 12 and 17, recite features similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1. Specifically, both of these claims include the step of reading out operation time data for each operation mode of an image processing apparatus, as well as operation time data for an operator of the image processing apparatus. Applicant believes that the reasoning set forth above with respect to claim 1 is equally applicable to claims


12 and 17. Therefore, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in these claims, also is patentably distinguishable from any combination of the cited art.

Dependent claims 3, 5-7, and 9 also should be deemed allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1, as well as in their own right for defining other patentable features of the present invention beyond those recited claim 1. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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